



Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Time: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Co-Chair Christine Carney, Drake Pusey, Kristen Bauer, Sharon Grossman, Nick Minton, Crystal Beauchemin, Kathy Rogers

Absent: Naoka Carey, Crystal Haynes, Gary Horowitz, Hina Jolin, Co-Chair Rajeev Soneja, Melanie Brown

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI), Capt. Richard Flynn (APD), Rebecca Gruber, Gina Carme

Meeting called to order at 8:04 pm by Co-chair Carney

Minutes

1. Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Not at quorum will have discussion but not vote on agenda items until another commissioner joins.
2. Review of April Draft Minutes
 - a. Tabling until quorum.
3. Community Input
 - a. Gruber- DTG & Robbins Library Social Justice Book Club, discussion on May 24th, On Juneteenth by Annette Gordon-Reed. Next DTG meeting is 6/9

4. Incidents and Complaints
 - a. APD Updates- New Recovery Coach is working out well, folks are accessing resources, looking to get him involved in schools.
 - b. New Incidents- Package delivered to victim with note on it that Asians not welcome here, supplemental report will be sent.
 - c. Recap previous incidents, no changes or updates.
5. Housing Issues
 - a. AHRC is receiving a number of housing complaints and commission is not best equipped to deal with them all appropriately.
 - b. Mill Brook, is one of the locations, AHRC chairs having joint meeting with town staff to come up with a plan for handling these complaints.
 - c. AHRC will focus on how to better serve community, if that means educating landlords and tenants on their rights, and discriminatory practices.
6. DEI Updates
 - a. Looking to have the Community Outreach & Engagement Coordinator position start in June
 - b. ADA position still in process of reviewing applicants
 - c. April Stand Against Racism programming was a success! I had a few human rights commissioners and staff co-facilitate, which was great.
 - d. Equity Audit Consultant has been selected, [Opportunity Consulting](#) out of DC, initial planning has started.
 - e. Harvey attended a daylong workshop hosted by the FBI on Contemporary Issues in Securing Houses of Worship, this was geared toward faith leaders and local law enforcement to make their communities and these institutions safe as they are often a target of hate crime- along with Chief Flaherty and a few APD captains
 - f. Upcoming 5/18 Disability Commission will have Active Bystander Training, and in June LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission having Pride event Sunday June 12, 2-5pm in Town Hall Gardens. Will be painting the crosswalks in first week of June.
7. Working Group Updates
 - a. Schools & Education
 1. Heterogenous grouping- tight vote, more community education is needed on this topic
 2. Strategic planning process is moving along quickly and is intense; group meets biweekly
 3. Superintendents Advisory Board meeting
 4. School Hate Crime Guide & MOA for APS- will be updated and working with DEI, APS DEI and resource officer.
 - b. Outreach & Events
 1. Meeting is next week on 5/25
 - c. Communications
 1. Working on transferring domain name
 2. Met with co-chairs and Harvey, looking ahead DEI to work on setting up MailChimp account for division, to include accounts for all 3 commissions
 3. Social media- need commissioners to assist with Twitter and

Instagram.

8. Co-Chairs Report
 - a. Town Manager Meeting
 1. Housing issues and how to work with town to resolve and move forward
 2. Discussed protocol and process for joint statements
 - b. Chief of Police Meeting
 1. Discussed earlier
9. MAHRC Meeting Update
 - a. Commissioner Rogers joined, (now at quorum), the monthly meeting has decreased in members and is not very substantive. Has helped to see that AHRC is leading the way in this work, this commission is very strong compared to other HRCs across the state. A benefit has been more access to Attorney General and other federal ties, as they attend some meetings.
10. Commissioner Updates:
 - a. Introduce the idea to the commission that each meeting someone discuss with the group what they are doing outside of the Commission's work to support human rights- meant to inspire responsibility and engagement on the commissions. Carney shared her views and current goals to do more.
11. Town Day Preparation
 - a. September 17th, will need volunteers to plan for that day
 - b. Think of a theme? Info to have at the table?
12. Sign Selling
 - a. Farmer's Market, any other ideas?
 - b. Market is June-October on Wednesdays
13. Announcements
 - a. Noted we now have quorum
 - b. Next meeting is Tuesday June 14, 2022
 - c. Incident Handling:
 1. May- Commissioner Brown
 2. June- Commissioner Carney
 3. July- Commissioner Horowitz
 - d. Discuss Buffalo Shooting
 1. Write a statement, rhetoric is extremely disturbing
 2. Pusey motioned to create first draft and edit statement, and co-chairs give final say for release, Bauer seconded, all in favor.
 - e. Return to 2nd item- Review April Draft Minutes
 1. Typographical errors noted and minor corrections
 2. Motion to approve as amended by Pusey, seconded by Rogers, all in favor.

Motion to adjourn by Grossman, seconded by Rogers – approved unanimously

Next meeting: Tuesday June 14, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.